

Case 3698***Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 (currently *Cenothyla varians*; Coleoptera, CARABIDAE): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81 of the Code, is to conserve the widely used name *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 (currently *Cenothyla varians*), a primary junior homonym of *Cicindela varians* Ljungh, 1799, for a species of carabid beetle. The senior homonym has been used only once after 1900, and is a subjective senior synonym of *Cicindela scutellaris* Say, 1823. Suppression of *Cicindela varians* Ljungh, 1799 would also help maintain the usage of the widely used name *Cicindela scutellaris* Say, 1823.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; CARABIDAE; *Cenothyla varians*; tiger beetles.

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1. *Cenothyla varians* was originally described as *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833.
 2. Chaudoir (1843) described *Odontocheila cognata* Chaudoir, 1843, but later (Chaudoir, 1860, p. 321) transferred *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 into *Odontocheila* Laporte, 1834 and treated *Odontocheila cognata* as a junior synonym of ‘*Odontochila varians*’ [sic]. This decision was followed by Gemminger & Harold (1868), Fleutiaux (1892), Horn (1895, 1899, 1902, 1904, 1905, 1910, 1926) and other subsequent authors. Rivalier (1969) treated this species as *Cenothyla varians* (Gory, 1833) in his important revision of *Odontocheila*, and Wiesner (1992) also used this name in his checklist.
 3. Cassola (1999) found that *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 was a primary homonym of *Cicindela varians* Ljungh, 1799. Consequently, Cassola (1999) replaced *C. varians* Gory with the first available synonym *Odontocheila cognata* Chaudoir, 1843 and treated this taxon as *Cenothyla cognata* (Chaudoir, 1843). This species was listed under this substituted name by some recent authors such as Lorenz (2005) and Erwin & Pearson (2008). Boyd (2000) argued that the several replacements by Cassola (1999) were made contrary to the Code.
 4. The replacement by Cassola (1999) is considered inappropriate for the following reasons:
 - (1) Although *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 was a primary junior homonym of *Cicindela varians* Ljungh, 1799, the taxa had not been considered congeneric since 1834;
 - (2) *Cicindela varians* Ljungh, 1799 has been used as a valid name only once since it was originally established. Cassola (1999) attempted to restore it as a senior synonym for the North American species *Cicindela scutellaris* Say, 1823, but this action was rejected by Boyd (2000) and Erwin & Pearson (2008). Under Article 23b of the 1985 Code, which was then in force, an author who considered that the application of the Principle of Priority would disturb

stability or universality or cause confusion was to maintain existing usage and should have referred the case to the Commission for a ruling under Article 79c. Cassola (1999, p. 76), did not follow this protocol and replaced the junior but widely used name by an obscure senior name that had never been in use. Cassola (1999) dealt in detail only with *C. varians* Ljungh, for which his arguments and reasoning were applied. His treatment of *C. varians* Gory was merely an aside without any reference to Code provisions.

- (3) The name *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 (as *Odontocheila* or *Cenothyla*, respectively) has been in prevailing (even exclusive) usage for more than a hundred years in taxonomic studies (e.g. Mandl, 1951; Rodriguez, 1994; Pearson et al., 1999; Naviaux, 2002), online databases, and ecological papers (e.g. Addis & Messner, 1997). A non-exhaustive list of 27 examples of usage of the name *variens* Gory 1833 as valid and a list of four examples of usage of the name *variens* Ljungh, 1799 are kept by the Commission Secretariat. Boyd (2000) demonstrated the wide usage of the name *Cicindela scutellaris* Say, 1823. Since the names *Cicindela varians* Gory, 1833 and *Cicindela scutellaris* Say, 1823 are both widely used, their replacement will lead to considerable confusion (Moravec, 2015).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to suppress the name *variens* Ljungh, 1799, as published in the binomen *Cicindela variens*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *variens* Gory, 1833, as published in the binomen *Cicindela variens*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *variens* Ljungh, 1799, as published in the binomen *Cicindela variens* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).